



NEWS RELEASE

WISCONSIN DISTRICT OFFICE

U. S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Release Date, March 17, 2003
Release No. 03-03

Contact: Jan Wipijewski (414) 297-1096
SBA News: www.sba.gov/wi/index2.html

SBA SELECTS WISCONSIN'S 2003 SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR Additional State Winners Also Announced

MILWAUKEE/MADISON: – Stuart W. Varner, President; Lester J. Gaunt, Vice President/Engineering Manager; Randy R. Brookens, Vice President/General Manager; and Mark G. Shaap, Vice President/Controller/Treasurer of Non-Metallic Components, Inc. (NMC) of Poynette, Wisconsin has been named Wisconsin's Small Business Person's of the Year for 2003 by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

NMC's management team is among 53 top small business persons—one from each state, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands, and Guam—who will be honored by SBA at national ceremonies in Washington, D.C. later this year. As the winners of the Wisconsin Small Business Person of the Year Award, they could be named National Small Business Persons of the Year during the national event.

NMC is a custom manufacturer of injection molded thermoplastic products, producing extremely close tolerance parts in both high and low volumes. This technology gives them the ability to manufacture one-piece ultra fine filters. This, along with their ability to integrate resources to create innovative and cost-saving solutions to manufacturing challenges, has made them a leader in the fields of custom injection molding, engineering and tool design. Industries NMC currently services include water conditioning, medical, appliance automotive and small engines. ***"Even though we have state of the art equipment and modern facilities, we realize that our most important assets are our employees and the more they learn, the more our customers benefit from it."*** These words are the mantra by which NMC operates. Through the continuous training and development of their employees combined with quality incentives and a safe, professional work environment, NMC's greatest asset, its employees, have successfully focused their daily efforts on meeting and exceeding their customer's needs and by solving the most challenging customer issues. NMC employees relish a challenge because they are trained to solve these issues.

As Wisconsin's Small Business Persons of the Year, NMC's management team is judged on their staying power, growth in number of employees, increase in sales and/or unit volume, current and past financial reports, innovations of product or service, response to adversity and contributions to aid community-oriented projects.

The Wisconsin SBA celebration of our Small Business Winners will be held Friday, May 16, 2003 at the SBA's 18th Annual Small Business Awards Presentation Breakfast at the Italian Community Center, 631 East Chicago Street, Milwaukee beginning at 7:00 a.m. For more information, please contact Mary Trimmier at 414-297-1093. NMC's management team will be honored along with eleven other small business and advocate winners for their contributions to Wisconsin's economy and small business communities.

- m o r e -

Wisconsin's SBA District Office also announced the state's Small Business Advocates of the Year and special category winners. The following categories and winners were announced:

Runner-Up Small Business Person – Art Smith, President & CEO of Keystone Travel Services, Milwaukee Wisconsin.

Small Business Exporter of the Year – **STATE & REGIONAL WINNER** – James Schwartz, President of J&Y International Enterprise, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.

Emerging Small Business Person of the Year – Kevin Schippers, President of E & G Franchise Systems, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Small Business Legal Assistance – Trina Dennis, Managing Attorney of Dennis Law Firm, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Small Business Journalist of the Year – **STATE & REGIONAL WINNER** – Paul Zukowski, Owner of Wordz for Business, Madison, Wisconsin.

Minority Small Business Person of the Year – Anthony Arteaga, President of Arteaga Construction, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Minority Small Business Advocate – Mike Schmitt, Process Manager-Supplier Diversity, Harley Davidson, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Financial Services Advocate – Ty Taylor, Executive Vice President of Waukesha State Bank, Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Women in Business Advocate – Christine Shields Kann, President of CSK Marketing, Inc., Racine, Wisconsin.

Small Business Research Advocate – **STATE & REGIONAL WINNER** – Dr. Phil Sobocinski, Associate Director for Technology Development & Commercialization at UW-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin.

Home Based Business Advocate – Mark Reiland, Vice President/Founder of Home Based Business Association, Inc., Green Bay, Wisconsin.

The U.S. Small Business Administration, which sponsors Small Business Week, congratulates all the winners and thanks them for their commitment and contributions to Wisconsin's small business communities.

*The SBA helps small businesses each year with access to capital and credit through its financial assistance programs, as well as assisting small business owners with technical training and counseling services. For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-U-ASK-SBA or TDD 704-344-6640. Also, visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov. The SBA, in co-sponsorship with Staples, has introduced an online newsletter **SBA Solutions**. For a free subscription, go to <http://web.sba.gov/list> and select New **SBA Solutions Newsletter**.*